Visit of Russian Delegation to India and Pakistan

†2704. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russian delegation which visited India and Pakistan has urged both the countries to end tension and act with better understanding;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the issue has reached at the world forum due to the political clash between India-Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the reasons for Government's failure in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) It is widely acknowledged internationally that the current tensions in India-Pakistan relations are due to Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. Governments have appropriately apprised the international community of Pakistan's involvement with terrorism. Following the 13 December, 2001 terrorist attack on India's Parliament, Government had undertaken several diplomatic and other measures. There is wide-spread recognition that the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration are the cornerstones of India-Pakistan bilateral relations, and commit both countries to work towards the establishment of good neighbourly ties, and to resolve all outstanding issues peacefully through direct bilateral approaches. There has been strong international support for India's resolve to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed; there is also general consensus in the international community that there is no justification for terrorism, which must be eradicated wherever it exists.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.